

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action of January 24, 2008 in which claims 1, 5-10 and 12-49 were rejected.

I. Subject matter of the invention

The present invention relates to methods (claims 1, 26, 34), computer readable media (claims 21, 30, 39) and devices (claims 17, 23, 40) for improved portrayal of navigation objects. At least two navigation objects are combined into one combined navigation object. The combining comprises merging the at least two navigation objects into a combined navigation object, presenting the combined navigation object with an additional icon that indicates that said at least two navigation objects have been merged into said combined navigation object, and, if the combined navigation object is selected, presenting the at least two navigation objects.

II. Prior art

The Office Action relies on US 6,300,947 (*Kanevsky*), US 2003/0030678 (*Rosenholtz*) and US 6,154,205 (*Carroll*).

U.S. 6,300,947 (*Kanevsky*)

Kanevsky, relates to a web page adaptation system and method that provide organization of viewing material associated with web sites for visual displays and windows on which these home pages are being viewed. A different viewing-access strategy is provided for such visual devices varying, for example, from standard PC monitors, laptop screens and palmtops to web phone and digital camera displays and from large windows to small windows. A new web site design incorporates features that permit automatic display of the content of home pages in the most friendly manner for a user viewing this content from a screen or window of a certain size. If a size of a screen or window does not allow display of all textual and icon information on a whole screen or window, the home page is mapped into

hierarchically linked new smaller pages that fully fit the current display or window. The display strategy is provided by a web page adaptation scheme that is implemented on a web site server or is incorporated in a web browser (e.g., as a java applet) or both. This adaptation strategy employs variables that provide size of screen and/or window information from which a call to a web site was initiated.

Inter alia, *Kanevsky* discloses that links L1, L2 and L3 related to a common topic can be represented by a link L123, and that links L1, L2 and L3 are displayed if link L123 is selected (col. 2, l. 20-40, the latter feature is at least implicitly disclosed with respect to the parallel description of the combining of icons). With reference to Fig. 14, *Kanevsky* discloses in col. 15, l. 38-61, that two icons are cut in half and combined into a single icon, wherein each half of the single icon can be selected by a user to activate the respective target associated with the icon. Therein, if several icons are related to the same topic, a new icon may be created for a given topic.

US 2003/0030678 (*Rosenholtz et al*)

Rosenholtz relates to a thumbnail image that includes at least one selectable element. The selectable element may be selected, or the document as a whole may be selected. The selectable element is associated with either (a) a portion of the original document, smaller than the original document as a whole or (b) a document other than the original document. When the thumbnail as a whole is selected, the original document is displayed. When the selectable element is selected, the appropriate portion of the original document, or the document other than the original document, is displayed (see abstract). This is illustrated with reference to Figs. 13 and 14 and described in paragraphs [0103] and [0104]. Fig. 13 is a thumbnail view, and upon selection of the thumbnail by mouse clicking, a view of the original document with the same enhancements (e.g. enlargement of specific words therein) as in the thumbnail view is displayed. Upon user interaction, or after a specific time, then also the original document without the enhancements may be displayed.

US 6,154,205 (*Carroll et al*)

Carroll et al relates to a television-based hyperlink content navigation system that includes a display device having a viewing area for displaying visual content such as an Internet Web document. Generally, the visual content has a content area that is larger than the viewing area, and includes a plurality of selectable objects such as hyperlinks and image maps. A user-manipulated operator such as a joystick allows navigation through the various hyperlinks and image maps, and also initiates scrolling of the visual content. Assuming that a focus is initially on a first one of the objects, moving the trackball tabs the focus to a nearby second object if the second object is within a predefined linear distance from the first object. If there is no second object within the predefined distance, moving the trackball causes the visual content to scroll at a speed that is proportional to the trackball speed. If a currently focused object is an image, such as an image map, that has a continuous two-dimensional range of selectable points, moving the trackball moves a pointer over the image in a continuous manner. Such a pointer is displayed only when the focus is on such a continuous image (see abstract).

III. Summary of the Office Action and the Examiner's Reasoning

All pending claims 1, 5-10 and 12-49 are rejected by the Examiner. The independent claims are rejected as being anticipated by a combination of *Kanevsky* and *Rosenholtz*. *Kanevsky* would disclose all features of the independent claims except the feature that the graphical navigation objects would be combined into the combined graphical navigation object by scaling. Scaling of a document or a part thereof, wherein the document comprises selectable elements (such as hyperlinks), to obtain a selectable thumbnail would however be disclosed by *Rosenholtz*, so that the subject matter of the independent claims would be obvious for a person skilled in the art.

Kanevsky, in col. 8, l. 43-67, would also disclose the step of determining whether said at least two navigation objects have to be combined into a combined navigation object or not.

Kanevsky would also disclose that the combined navigation object would be displayed in a first display mode, and that the at least two navigation objects would

be displayed in a second display mode, if the combined navigation object would be selected.

Kanevsky would not disclose that, if said combined navigation object is selected, said at least two navigation objects would be displayed in an unscaled format. This would however be disclosed in *Rosenholtz* (paragraph [0104]).

Kanevsky and *Rosenholtz* would not disclose that the at least two navigation objects are image hyperlinks within an image map contained in a web page. This would however be obvious in view of *Carroll*, which would disclose the use of image maps.

IV. Applicant's comments

Applicant has studied the Office Action and the new prior art reference in detail and have come to the conclusion that claim amendments may be beneficial at this stage.

In particular, without prejudice, the independent claims have been amended based on a feature is described in the second paragraph on page 6 (in the context of graphical navigation objects), in the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 (in the context of graphical and textual navigation objects) and in the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19 (in the context of graphical navigation objects) of the patent application. Therein, it is described that the combined navigation object is furnished with an additional icon that indicates that navigation objects have been combined into this combined navigation object. This icon has a plurality of advantages.

First, in a case that the navigation objects are still selectable when being presented in the combined navigation object, it may be difficult to define if a selection is targeting a single navigation object in the combined navigation object, or the combined navigation object as a whole. Defining a selection of the icon as a selection of the combined navigation object may then be an advantageous way of solving this problem (see the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11).

Furthermore, even when the single navigation objects in the combined navigation objects are no longer selectable when the combined navigation object is displayed, having an icon that indicates that several navigation objects have been combined into the combined navigation object is also particularly advantageous,

since it draws a user's attention to the combined navigation object and informs the user that the combined navigation object is not an ordinary navigation object, but a combined navigation object. A user is thus informed that selecting this combined navigation object triggers displaying of the at least two navigation objects comprised in this combined navigation objects, i.e. does not only trigger linking to another page or execution of a specific program.

This feature is not disclosed in any of the cited prior art references, since both *Kanevsky* (see for instance the combined navigation object 1604 in Fig. 14) and *Rosenholtz* (see for instance the thumbnail in Fig. 13) dispense with such an additional icon. Furthermore, it is also not apparent why such a feature would be rendered obvious by *Kanevsky* or *Rosenholtz* or a combination thereof. In *Kanevsky*, the above-described disadvantage that a user is not aware that a combined icon 112 is actually an icon that takes him to icons I1 and I2 (see col. 2, l. 26-38) is obviously not recognized or readily accepted, whereas in *Rosenholtz*, since thumbnails are generally known as reduced-size representations of documents or parts thereof (see section [0037]), a user is aware that when clicking on the thumbnail, a large amount of content, including for instance hyperlinks, icons, images, etc. will be presented, so that an additional icon for the thumbnail is not required.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 5-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21-28, 30-32, 34-37, and 39-49 is requested.

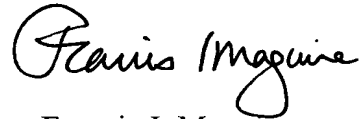
Regarding the obviousness rejection of claims 16, 20, 29, 33, 38 and 44, these are dependent claims which are patentable for at least the same reasons given above in applicant overcoming the obviousness rejection of their respective independent claims. Withdrawal thereof is requested.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of January 24, 2008, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 1, 5-10 and 12-51 to issue is earnestly solicited.

It is not believed that any extension of time fees are due on account of this amendment but if that belief is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this paper to be a petition for the correct extension of time period and to deduct the appropriate extension of time fee from our Deposit Account No. 23-0442. Similarly,

it is not believed that any extra claims fees are due on account of this amendment but if that belief is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the correct extra claim fees from our Deposit Account No. 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis J. Maguire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "F".

Francis J. Maguire

Attorney for the Applicant

Registration No. 31,391

FJM/mo
Ware, Fressola, Van Der Sluys & Adolphson LLP
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-1234